Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis.

For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins which will accrue benefits of drinking water supply, irrigation, hydro-power, flood control, navigation, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.

Several steps have been taken for improvement/restoration of quality of water bodies in the country and some of them are :

(i) Ensuring industries, located on the banks of rivers and lakes, set up the requisite pollution control facilities.

(ii) Issuance of Directives to the defaulting industries for preventing discharge to untreated waste water into water bodies.

(iii) Formulation and implementation of National River and Lake Conservation Plan for restoration of water quality of the rivers and lakes.

Management of water resources

2774. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether review has been made to evaluate the implementation of the action plan formulated for optimal and sustainable development and management of water resources of the country as envisaged in the National Water Policy, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of specific steps taken or time-bound projects launched, if any, towards development and management of water resources in an integrated manner?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) A draft Action Plan for implementation of National Water Policy, 2002 has been formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources. This draft Action Plan has been discussed with the State Governments/Union Territories and Non-Government/ Voluntary Organisations in various fora before finalising it. The Action Plan has been approved and adopted in the National Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Minister of States/Union Territory Administrators held on 5th February, 2003.

(c) For integrated planning of water resources development and management, the action plan includes preparation of Integrated Water Resources Basin Development Plan, popularising and providing technical support to states for rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge etc.; preparation of a comprehensive Action Plan for watershed management, basin/sub-basin wise. The Action Plan also emphasizes planning of all water related activities including surface and groundwater to be brought under one department say Water Resources Department in States. Working out model institutional framework for establishing River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and setting up of RBOs as per the modalites so worked out for each basin/sub-basin are the actions included in the Plan.

Status of accelerated irrigation benefits programme in Andhra Pradesh

2775. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in the recent past launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to assist the States to complete those irrigation projects which are in advance stages of completion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of AIBP in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since inception of this programme in 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 11541.7314 crore has been released to 172 major/medium and 5382 minor irrigation projects in 28 States.